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Checking In



ACE HOTEL West Loop

Given the brand's track record and millennial clientele, it should come as no surprise that Ace chose to open in a renovated turn-of-the-century cheese factory in the emerging Fulton Market District, right across from Google's Chicago offices. In the 159 guest rooms, styled by Commune Design, you'll find an uncluttered sense of comfort: warm, handwoven textiles, steel-pipe furniture, and the company's signature turntables. And though the hotel is within walking distance of some of Chicago's top restaurants (such as Roister and Girl & the Goat), don't overlook City Mouse, the lobby restaurant, which serves burgers and a killer brunch seven days a week. acehotel.com; doubles from \$249.

From top: A guest room at the new Ace Hotel Chicago; the Blackstone hotel's Catalan restaurant, Mercat a la Planxa.

VICEROY Gold Coast

For its latest property, Viceroy disassembled and painstakingly restored the former Cedar Hotel, a 1920s-era brick-and-terra-cotta structure. Above, it erected a gleaming new 20-story glass tower with dramatically angled floor-to-ceiling windows, so guests can enjoy sweeping views of Lake Michigan and the city's skyline from many of the 180 rooms. But the biggest draw may be the restaurants: at Somerset, James Beard Award nominee Lee Bolen turns out upscale comfort food like duck-leg gnochetti, and at the indoor-outdoor rooftop lounge, Devereaux, the daiquiris flow freely. viceroyhotelsandresorts.com; doubles from \$305.

FIELDHOUSE JONES

Between River North and Old Town

This boutique-hotel-hostel hybrid is modeled after one of the city's traditional field houses—indoor recreation centers for those cold winters. No detail has been overlooked, from the second story's floor-to-skylight assemblage of vintage sports equipment to the basement game room's custom slot-car tracks. It's the type of place where everything's got a story—which the super-friendly staff is happy to tell. Private rooms and shared hostel-style dorms are available, and groups will love the apartment-like suites with bunk beds and mini kitchens. fieldhousejones.com; doubles from \$75.

THE BLACKSTONE, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Cultural Mile

Set in a 1910 Beaux-Arts building, this downtown stunner is equal parts hotel and gallery, with more than 1,600 works by local artists on display. Noteworthy pieces include hand-cut-stencil paintings by David Soukup and Michael Hernandez de Luna's fake stamp sheets. In addition to

the art, this year's \$12 million refresh brought a more modern look to each of the 335 guest rooms. That's not to say that the hotel's past has been forgotten: the lobby still has its original crown molding and brass-paneled elevators, and in-room notepads are printed with doodles left by former presidential guests, including JFK and Teddy Roosevelt. theblackstonehotel.com; doubles from \$189.

